

Classical Mythology

Summer 2015, Block C

Professor Tara Welch

Department of Classics, KU

OFFICE LOCATION

Office hours: TBA

tswelch@ku.edu

UI Department Chair: John Finamore

john-finamore@uiowa.edu

Required texts:

Homer Essential Homer, transl. S. Lombardo (Hackett)

Vergil Aeneid, transl. S. Lombardo (Hackett)

Ovid Metamorphoses, transl. S. Lombardo (Hackett)

Apuleius The Golden Ass, transl. Robert Graves

Additional readings will be available in the program library and/or ICON. These are all small readings.

Course objectives: In this course you will learn about Greek and Roman myths – not only their plots and characters, but the far more interesting and challenging questions and answers they pose about ancient culture. As a result of this course, you should be able to do many or all of the following:

- recall and recount the plots and characters of major ancient Greek and Roman myths
- situate Greek and Roman myths in the cultural framework of the people who told them
- understand and use a technical vocabulary for ancient literature
- compare Greek and Roman myths to myths from other ancient cultures, and to modern myths
- recognize several genres of ancient literature (tragedy, epic, hymn) and read them with ease
- discern among and evaluate competing claims or approaches to myths or to the problems they explore
- read critical scholarly literature, identifying and assessing the shape and agenda of a scholarly argument and interrelating it to other texts/readings
- build and articulate your own scholarly argument about an ancient myth or myths
- understand the cultural and individual contingency of myth
- recognize myths at work and play in your own culture and life

Suggestions for success:

- Come to class every time, alert, even if you haven't been able to complete the reading.
- Do the readings on time. For best results, read before class, review your notes, then read again within a few days. Mark your text or make note of passages we read in class.
- Review the lecture slides made available online and in copy form, within 24 hours of class.
- Complete the optional tutorial exercises on ICON – these are short and they can help you master both the facts and the concepts we're covering in class.
- Participate with gusto in this class – read, think, chat, respond, think more.
- Be in communication with me. I want to help you succeed, and I can help! If something exists or arises that affects your performance in this class (illness, other crises, learning disabilities, etc.), let me know as soon as possible. There is very little I can do to help if I find out about such things too late.

Course requirements:

1) Reading the assigned materials. You are expected to complete the readings before class. To help you understand the readings, and as an incentive to read before class, every day (except test days) will begin with a reading quiz (12 total). These are short, low-stakes quizzes that will take no more than 5 minutes. They count cumulatively for 12% of your course grade.

2) One midterm (Th 5/28) worth 10% and one final exam (Th 6/11) worth 15% of your grade.

3) Five short critical reading/writing assignments: **three art worksheets** due on F 5/22, M 6/1, and M 6/8, worth 10 % each; and two **short papers** (1 pg, single spaced, typed), due on Tu 5/26 and Th 6/4, worth 10 and 15%. Topics will be announced in class.

4) Participation in the intellectual life of the class via **discussion** in class, worth 5%.

5) Attendance. Attendance at all classes and CIMBA sanctioned activities is **MANDATORY**. All unexcused absences will have the following consequences:

- a. 1st absence will result in a loss of a 1/2 of a letter grade in that class
- b. 2nd (cumulative) absence will result in a loss of an entire letter grade in that class
- c. 3rd (cumulative) absence will result in a dismissal from the program

Absences due to illness require a note from the CIMBA Staff. If a student is sick and cannot attend class, he/she must inform the CIMBA Staff immediately. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

6) All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#): "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

Grading (standard +/-, no rounding up):

Reading quizzes (1% each)	15%	15 of them in class
Art worksheets (10% each)	30%	Due 5/22, 6/1, and 6/8
Short papers (10, 15% each)	25%	Due 5/26 and 6/4
Discussion	5%	Throughout
Tests 1 & 2 (10, 15%)	25%	5/28 and 6/11

This is a wall painting from ancient Pompeii depicting king Agamemnon's sacrifice of his daughter Iphigeneia. It was painted in the 1st century CE. The cloaked person is a priest mourning the sacrifice. The goddess Diana flies above with her bow, as does a nymph.



Course Policies:

1) Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. If you feel that you are being or have been harassed or you are not sure what constitutes sexual harassment, we encourage you to visit the University website, www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/index.php, and to seek assistance from the CIMBA Director, Brandelle Unkrich, at 319-335-1041 or brandelle-unkrich@uiowa.edu.

2) Student concerns regarding this course should first be discussed with me, the faculty member teaching this course. If we can't resolve the complaint, you may contact the CIMBA Director, Brandelle Unkrich (319-335-1041, brandelle-unkrich@uiowa.edu). The Director will review the details of the complaint and involve the Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Programs, as needed.

3) A student seeking academic accommodations such as a modification of seating, testing, timing, etc. should first register with Student Disability Services, then contact Shannon Lizakowski (shannon-lizakowski@uiowa.edu) in the CIMBA Office to make further arrangements. See <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/> for more information